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February 1, 2019

Delta Public Lands Strategy  
1450 Halyard Drive, Suite 6  
West Sacramento, CA 95691

Re: Delta Public Lands Strategy – Guidance for Conservation and Sustainability across the West, Central, and Northeast Delta

Greetings,

Thank you for the opportunity to express the position of the Contra Costa Mosquito & Vector Control District (the District) regarding the Delta Public Lands Strategy – Guidance for Conservation and Sustainability across the West, Central, and Northeast Delta document released in January 2019.

As a bit of background, the District is tasked with reducing the risk of diseases spread through vectors in Contra Costa County by controlling them in a responsible, environmentally-conscious manner. A “vector” means any animal capable of transmitting the causative agent of human disease or capable of producing human discomfort or injury, including, but not limited to, mosquitoes, flies, mites, ticks, other arthropods, and rodents and other vertebrates. Under the California Health and Safety Code, property owners retain the responsibility to ensure that the structure(s), device(s), other project elements, and all additional facets of their property do not breed or harbor vectors, or otherwise create a nuisance. Owners are required to take measures to abate any nuisance caused by the structure(s), device(s), or other feature(s) on their property. Maintaining a nuisance on the property may lead to abatement by the Contra Costa Mosquito & Vector Control District and civil penalties pursuant to California Health & Safety Code §2060-2067.

All mosquitoes require water to complete their life cycle. Projects that construct impervious surface, alter water flow or drainage, introduce irrigation, create or modify wetlands and other habitat, contain stormwater conveyance or treatment elements, etc. have the potential to produce standing water and vector breeding habitat, creating a potential health hazard for area citizens, pets, livestock, and wildlife. Vector species that may breed in such locales have the ability to not only affect nearby individuals, but potentially spread disease viruses to persons and other animals several miles away. Other mosquito species inclined to breed in brackish waters (e.g. existing or restored tidal marshes) are such aggressive biters during daylight hours that people may be unable to enjoy any outdoor activity adjacent to these breeding sites, undoubtedly reducing economic returns via ecotourism. Careful considerations for design, construction, operation, and maintenance measures should be employed to ensure conservation and sustainability projects do not produce standing water in order to prevent creating suitable mosquito breeding habitat. If projects or practices will result in the creation or maintenance of stagnant waters by design (e.g. rice fields), measures should be implemented to prevent mosquito production.

*Protecting Public Health Since 1927*

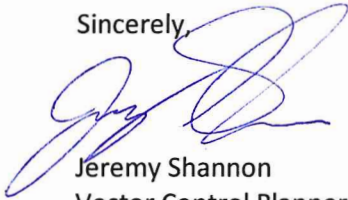
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Incorporating consultation and cooperation with local mosquito abatement and vector control districts (or equivalent agencies) into the strategy is key to prevent creating potential public health hazards that may require future enforcement actions. Our District is more than happy to consult and provide guidance when planning and designing all such projects within Contra Costa County. Any property owner or agency considering undertaking these endeavors is encouraged to contact us for assistance at any time.

Sincerely,



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